

REMARKS

By this Response, Applicants have canceled claims 119-121 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 60-64, 67-81, and 83-118 are present in the application. Of those claims, claims 93-96 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Thus, claims 60-64, 67-81, 83-92, and 97-118 remain present and pending on the merits in the present application.

I. Statement of the Substance of the Interview Conducted April 7, 2010

Applicants appreciate the courtesy and consideration extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Maki during the telephone interview conducted April 7, 2010. During the interview, portions of the Office Action issued January 25, 2010, were clarified, as stated in the Interview Summary issued with the final Office Action issued November 9, 2010.

II. Allowed Claims

In the final Office Action, claims 60-64, 67-81, 83-92, and 97-118 were allowed. Final Office Action at 8. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of those claims.

III. Rejections of Claims 119-121

The final Office Action includes the following claim rejections:

1. Claim 120 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite (Final Office Action at 2);
2. Claim 121 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Japanese Publication No. JP 10-264612 (id.);

3. Claim 119 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,607,018 to Fukunaga et al. ("Fukunaga") in view of Japanese Publication No. JP 05-301508 (id. 4); and
4. Claim 120 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Fukunaga in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,095,215 to Hutson et al. (id. at 6).

Although Applicants do not necessarily believe that these claim rejections are proper, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 119-121 in an effort to expedite issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the present application. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a continuation application including claims directed to subject matter consistent with the subject matter recited in claims 119-121 of the present application. Because all of the claims included in the above-noted claim rejections have been canceled, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections.

III. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims 93-96

Claims 93-96 were withdrawn from consideration in the present application as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 93-96 depend from allowed independent claim 60, which is generic to the subject matter recited in claims 93-96. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder, examination, and allowance of claims 93-96.

IV. Conclusion

Claims 60-64, 67-81, and 83-118 are the only claims remaining in the present application. Claims 60-64, 67-81, 83-92, and 97-118 have been allowed, and withdrawn claims 93-96 depend from allowed independent claim 60, which is generic with respect

to claims 93-96. Thus, dependent claims 93-96 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 60. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the claim rejections, rejoinder and examination of withdrawn claims 93-96, and allowance of all of pending claims 60-64, 67-81, and 83-118.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 653-6559.

Applicants respectfully submit that the final Office Action contains a number of assertions regarding the claims and the prior art. Regardless of whether any of those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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